

Advent Sermon April 26, 2026
John 10:1–10

Theme: *The Good Shepherd's Door: Jesus Gives Safety, Freedom, and Full Life*

The world we live in that never stops talking—phones, ads, opinions, breaking news, worries, fears—how do we know which voice to trust? Every day something is calling for our attention. One voice says, “Be afraid.” Another says, “Chase success.” Another says, “You are not enough.” Another says, “If you just had more, then you would have peace.” So many voices speak, yet so few bring peace.

Today we come to John chapter 10, where Jesus gives us clarity in the middle of confusion. He calls Himself the Shepherd, and He says, “**I am the door.**” In these words, Jesus shows us who He is and what He offers: salvation, guidance, protection, and abundant life.

Jesus Is the Only True Door to God

Jesus said, “**I am the door.**” In those days sheep were often kept in a fold surrounded by stone walls, with only one opening. The shepherd himself would stand or lie across that entrance, becoming the door for the sheep. Nothing entered except through him.

Jesus says that is who He is for us. He is the true entrance to life with God. He laid down His life on the cross for us.

Many doors in life promise peace. Some trust religion alone. Some trust money. Some trust achievement. Some trust human wisdom. But none of these can save the soul. None of them can remove sin. None of them can reconcile us to God.

Only Jesus can do that. Many doors promise peace, but only one truly opens into salvation. Christ alone is that door.

When the singer sang *It Is Well with My Soul*, he searched through many alternatives, but his soul found peace only when he encountered Jesus and remained in Him.

Jesus Knows You by Name

Jesus says the shepherd calls his sheep by name, and the sheep know his voice. My father had a cow named Shangabo. She knew both her name and our voices. Whenever we called, “Shee, shee, Shangabo,” she would appear and give a sign of response. But she responded only when someone from our family called her—not just any stranger. Amazingly, even though we had several cows, no other cow would come when we called Shangabo.

Jesus says the shepherd calls his sheep by name, and the sheep know his voice. My This means our relationship with Christ is personal. He does not deal with us as numbers, statistics, or faces in a crowd. He does not overgeneralize us by saying, “All people at Advent are like this.”

He knows you individually. He knows your burdens, your hidden tears, your disappointments, your fears about tomorrow, your joy, and the struggles you never tell anyone else.

And still, He calls you. What a comfort this is. The Lord of heaven knows your name.

In a noisy world, we need to learn His voice again. We hear His voice through Scripture. We hear His voice through prayer. We hear His voice through Holy Communion. We hear His voice when the Holy Spirit reminds us of truth.

The more we walk with Christ, the more clearly, we recognize the Shepherd’s voice.

Jesus Gives Safety and Freedom

Jesus says, **“If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”**

That is a beautiful promise. It means security and freedom together.

In Christ, you are safe. Safe in His grace. Safe in His forgiveness. Safe in His care. The storms of life may still come, but your soul is held by the Shepherd. Therefore, we never cease to say, *It is well with my soul.*

There is more: you go in and out and find pasture. You are not imprisoned. You are free. Free from guilt. Free from fear. Free from trying to prove yourself. Free to live, serve, love, and walk in purpose.

Jesus does not cage His people. He leads His people.

Jesus Gives Abundant Life

Then Jesus says these powerful words: **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”**

The enemy steals joy. Sin destroys peace. Fear drains strength. Bitterness kills relationships. Anxiety robs rest.

But Jesus came to give life. Not shallow life. Not temporary excitement. Not a slightly improved version of your old life. He gives abundant life. Overflowing life.

Life with hope when circumstances are hard.
Life with joy even in tears.
Life with peace in chaos.
Life with purpose in uncertainty.
Life that begins now and continues eternally.

This is the life only Christ can give.

Our Weekly Challenge

Right now, Jesus stands before us as the Door. He is not forcing His way in. He is inviting us.

The world is loud, but His voice is steady.
The world is confused, but His voice is true.
The world makes promises, but He alone fulfills them.

Today, choose whose voice you will follow.

Will it be the voice of fear?
Will it be the voice of pride?
Will it be the voice of endless striving?

Or will it be the voice of the Shepherd who offers YOU safety, freedom, forgiveness, and full life?

Jesus says, **“I am the door.”**

Will you come through that Door today? Please do. **Amen**